



ALLIANCE FOR THE GREAT LAKES

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June 5, 2012

The Honorable Frank Foster, Chair
House Committee on Natural Resources, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation
307 House Office Building
Lansing, MI 48909

RE: Senate Bill 1052

Dear Chairman Foster, Minority Vice-Chair Haugh and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer written comments on Senate Bill 1052 (SB 1052). We appreciate Senator Casperson's interest in protecting our common Great Lakes' coastal resources. However, we find that SB 1052 is unlikely to lead to improved quality of these resources and may, in fact, go counter to the basic protections that sustain Michigan's unique and economically valuable Great Lakes shoreline.

The Alliance for the Great Lakes has a long history of work protecting Michigan's beaches and natural coastal areas through our Adopt-A-Beach™ program. Every year, thousands of Alliance volunteers work to help maintain the vast beauty of Michigan's beaches and coastal areas – a key tourist attraction and economic engine for the Great Lakes state.

Certain grooming and mowing activities in coastal areas are currently allowed through a Shoreline Management General Permit. Unfortunately SB 1052 does not improve this permitting process by ensuring that unique and valuable coastal resources are protected. In fact, it removes protections for the literally irreplaceable beach and coastal areas between the Ordinary High Water Mark and the water's edge.

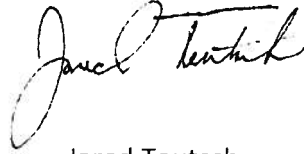
We would welcome the opportunity to work with Senator Casperson, the House Committee on Natural Resources, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation, other interested groups and organizations to ensure any changes to the permitting process for beach grooming maintain crucial protections for Michigan's beaches and coastal areas.

Until such time, however, we ask that you vote no on SB 1052. Once again, allow me to extend my sincere thanks for your deliberations on this matter. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me at (312) 939-0838 x 232, or at jteutsch@greatlakes.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joel Brammeier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joel" being more prominent.

Joel Brammeier
President & CEO

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jared Teutsch". The signature is cursive, with the first name "Jared" being more prominent.

Jared Teutsch
Water Policy Advocate